

to see the Parliamentarian very alert, watching, listening, and prompting the Chair. That is the way it should be so the RECORD will read today in such a manner as will make us proud. Sometimes, I guess, we forget that future generations will be reading the RECORD. Not only that, but we Senators should learn as well how to handle these matters. It does me good to see a Chair who is alert and a Parliamentarian who is alert.

LISA TUIITE

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, once in a while an individual comes along who shines with such a special light that it illuminates the darkness for others. I have been fortunate to employ one such individual on my staff for the last 8 years: Lisa Tuite, Lisa achieved her master of arts degree in national security studies from Georgetown University in 1990 and her bachelor of arts degree in foreign affairs from the University of Virginia. She came to my office as a legislative fellow from the National Photographic Interpretation Center. I soon recognized her talent. Lisa was employed in my office to serve as a legislative assistant for defense and foreign affairs and to assist me on the Armed Services Committee. She has done all of these things and done them well. Eventually she rose through the ranks to become my administrative assistant.

Multitalented, thoughtful, with an encyclopedic grasp of detail, Lisa Tuite has been an inspiration to my staff and she has been an inspiration to me.

I have been here on Jenkins Hill for 48 years, longer than anybody else who is in the Congress today in either body. JOHN DINGELL is the dean of the House of Representatives. I served with JOHN DINGELL's father in the House. I speak of JOHN DINGELL in a very admiring fashion. He is a man of tremendous talent, a fine, fine Member of the House. But I have been around quite a while, and I have seen a lot of people come and go in the Chamber here, as well in my employment, as one can imagine—48 years, starting out in the House of Representatives with five persons on my staff a long time ago.

I have seen Senators come and go. I have seen our staffs at the front desk come and go. But this particular individual, of whom I speak today, merits my highest compliments. I have rarely employed anyone with her patience, her writing ability, her organizational instincts or her boundless energy. She is that rare breed of Senate staffer, seemingly born for the job and eager to do it. Moreover, as anyone who knows Lisa can attest, she is resolute, unflappable, and unfailingly cheerful. I have seldom seen her discouraged, and there is literally no task that she will not assume with relish, and always unfailing in her courtesy. I shall miss her.

She has the soul of a gardener. It is a hobby at which she excels. She is a cultivator of beauty and a nurturer of

growth. I am speaking not only with respect to plants and flowers and, yes, crops; but I am speaking also with reference to other individuals. For my other employees, she has been an inspiration as well. The young staffers whom she has so carefully tended and so artfully encouraged have blossomed, blossomed like the daffodils, blossomed under Lisa's tutelage. She has graciously focused her sunshine upon them all, upon all who work with her.

Alas, as all good things come to an end, at least all things that are mortal, Lisa will be leaving my staff to spend more time with her husband Jim, her mother and father, and her adorable daughter Rachel. And I am the loser. I am saddened to lose her, but I know that she will grace whatever she puts her heart and hand to in the future years as she has done in my office for the too brief time that she worked among us and with us and lent us her gracious smile and her scintillating personality, her wit, her good sense, her good judgment, her dedication, her loyalty.

So to Lisa, my staff and I say:

The hours are like a string of pearls,
The days like diamonds rare,
The moments are the threads of gold,
That bind them for our wear,
So may the years that come to you,
Such health and good contain,
That every moment, hour, and day,
Be like a golden chain.

NEVER FORGOTTEN

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, soon, the 106th Congress will draw to a close, and with that final bell, the Senate careers of a number of very fine Members will also, suddenly, draw to a close. Such are the wages of service in this Republic. Senator ROBB, Senator GORTON, Senator GRAMS, Senator ASHCROFT, Senator ABRAHAM will have answered their final rollcall. They will have waited through their final quorum calls and they will have left the Senate floor, as a Member of this body, for a final time. Oh, they may be back to visit, and I hope they will come back to visit. They will always be welcome here. But I am sure that the Senate floor is not quite the same when one is not allowed to vote or to make a statement.

However, these distinguished Members will always be a unique part of the Senate family and of the Senate's history. In the history of this great Republic—I do not speak of it as a democracy, I speak of it as a Republic; as a representative democracy, yes—in the history of this great Republic, there have only been 1,853 men and women who have served here since April 6 of 1789. In January 2001, that number will rise to 1,864. These names can be found listed in rank order, a list that is immutable and irreplaceable.

More than that, each Senator becomes a part of the institution of the Senate. Each Member's actions help to shape the precedents and the practices

of the Senate, just as a Member's amendments, bills, and votes shape the legislative history of the land. The singular honor of serving in the United States Senate leaves its mark on each Member. I am tempted to say that each Member leaves his or her mark on the Senate, but that would not be accurate. Few Senators perhaps leave their mark on the Senate, but the Senate leaves its mark, unblemished, unstained, on the life of every Member.

I wish today to speak of two of these departing Senators with whom I have worked closely over the years: Senator CHARLES "CHUCK" ROBB and Senator SLADE GORTON. Senator GORTON's number among the roll of Senators is 1,752. Senator ROBB's number is 1,788. They are listed on the roll of Members of the United States Senate. Senator ROBB, Senator GORTON, and the other departing Members, will carry the badge of Senate service with them. It is a badge of honor that they will carry with them.

These men are much more than a name or a number, of course. Senator ROBB has been a dedicated public servant. He has served his country in many ways. I have served with him on the Senate Committee on Armed Services where he was most recently the ranking member of the Subcommittee on Readiness and Management Support. He was also a member of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, and he was for many years a member of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations.

As a former marine, as well as a representative of a Commonwealth with a very large military presence, Senator ROBB was a tireless advocate for the men and the women who labor in uniform and in other intelligence and supporting roles to protect our great Nation. Senator ROBB has also sought to protect and further the economic health of the Nation.

He has served this Nation in many ways, from active duty as a United States Marine to Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia to United States Senator. To his service here, he has brought a conscience. He charted his own course, made his own votes and his decisions using his moral compass rather than polls or media campaigns.

I will always remember Senator ROBB for his gentle courtesy, his calm and even manner, his soft-spoken ways. Though passionate in his beliefs, he worked quietly and steadily in a bipartisan spirit to achieve his goals. The State of Virginia is better off today for his efforts in the Senate, and the Senate has been the better for his presence. Now, to Senator GORTON.

Senator SLADE GORTON knows something about leaving the Senate, having left once before in 1987, only to return 2 years later to serve from 1989 through the end of the 106th Congress. I have been his ranking member on the Senate Committee on Appropriations. I am here to say that I could not have had a better partner than the distinguished

Senator from Washington. Of course, I have said that many times before. In these past years, he has been the wheel horse of our team, putting his shoulder to the wheel and pulling the heavy load of putting together the complex Interior appropriations bill. He has shown himself to be a master of the appropriations process, and no one, I venture to say, knows the Interior appropriations bill and the programs it funds better than SLADE GORTON does. Senator GORTON has a truly impressive grasp of detail, and yet he never lets minutiae cloud his vision of the overall picture. I could not have asked for a more congenial, collegial, common-sense colleague, and I will truly miss my friend, SLADE GORTON, on the committee.

I know that the rest of the Senate will miss our colleague from Washington as well. He is well liked on both sides of the aisle as gracious, polite, soft spoken. He never rebukes a colleague. Rather, he will look up, blink in polite astonishment, and with a gentle question point out the error of one's ways.

Senator GORTON is another example of a Member who makes the Senate work by focusing on the needs of his constituents. Besides his work on the Interior Appropriations Subcommittee and throughout the entire appropriations process, Senator GORTON looked after the interests of Washington State from his seat on the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation where he chaired the Subcommittee on Aviation and also served on the Subcommittee on Oceans and Fisheries, both important to a coastal State that is home to Boeing Aviation.

He also served as the vice chair, the vice chairman—Mr. President, I break my sentence. I do not believe in this nonsense. I do not believe in this nonsense called political correctness. I have no use for it whatsoever. There is a chair right there across the aisle; here is a chair beside me. There is a difference between a chairman and a chair. I do not subscribe to the word "chair" except where it is appropriate to use it, and I never refer to a human being as a "chair." I do not want anyone referring to me as a "chair."

Senator GORTON also served as the vice chairman of the Subcommittee on Water and Power on the Energy and Natural Resources Committee—again topics of interest to his State with significant hydropower concerns. And if these duties did not keep him busy enough, Senator GORTON also served on the Senate Budget Committee.

Senator GORTON's focus serves the Senate well. In defending the different perspectives of States large and small, populous or not, rural or urban, individual Senators act as the kind of internal checks and balances that the framers envisioned, keeping the tyranny of a majority from putting other groups and interests at a disadvantage.

The Senate is designed to give States an equal voice and equal standing, de-

spite differences among the States with respect to population.

I shall especially miss Senator GORTON because we worked very closely together on the Appropriations Committee. It was a very busy subcommittee. It is a westerner's subcommittee, in fact. That is the way I have always looked upon it, although I have found it to be very important, as well, to States of the East and South and North.

I wish him well. I will miss him. As an able and talented man, he will soon find new venues in which to continue serving the public interest.

He traveled all across this country, he and his family, on bicycles upon one occasion some years ago, from the west coast to the east coast, the whole family, on bicycles. So one might easily imagine what kind of adventurer SLADE GORTON is. That takes a lot of courage, a lot of determination. But wherever he goes, and wherever Senator ROBB goes, wherever these other Senators whose names I have mentioned go, they will always be called "Senator." Majorian, in 457 A.D., when he was made emperor of the West, referred to himself as "a prince who still glories in the name of Senator."

Mr. President, I close with a few lines from a poem by Ralph Waldo Emerson. It is a fitting tribute to the fine, lasting work performed in this mighty Senate by these departing Members: Senator ROBB, Senator GORTON, Senator GRAMS, Senator ASHCROFT, and Senator ABRAHAM. I am speaking of these Senators. There are other Senators who are departing and about whom I have spoken previously. Senators whose names I have mentioned today are Senators who were in the most recent election, who fought nobly and well, and who lost.

What makes a nation's pillars high
And its foundations strong?
What makes it mighty to defy
The foes that round it throng?

It is not gold. Its kingdoms grand
Go down in battle shock;
Its shafts are laid on sinking sand,
Not on abiding rock.

Is it the sword? Ask the red dust
Of empires passed away;

The blood has turned their stones to rust,

Their glory to decay.

And is it pride? Ah, that bright crown
Has seemed to nations sweet;
But God has struck its luster down
In ashes at His feet.

Not gold but only men can make
A people great and strong;
Men who for truth and honor's sake
Stand fast and suffer long.

Brave men who work while others sleep,

Who dare while others fly—
They build a nation's pillars deep
And lift them to the sky.

THE NEW MILLENNIUM

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, as we prepare, in these last days, to go home for

the Christmas holidays—and I suppose we include New Year's as well, at which time we will go into a new century. To all those who have been a part of perpetrating this colossal hoax on the American people, trying to make the American people believe that the new century began in January of 2000, let me say, come January 1 of 2001, all mankind will then, indeed, move into the 21st century. It will begin, and so will the third millennium. Anyone who can count from 1 to 100 knows that that is the case, whether they use the old math or the new. We will begin the 21st century on January 1 next.

TRIBUTE TO THE SENATE CHAPLAIN

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, each day the Senate is in session the Chaplain leads us in prayer. From time to time, we have a guest Chaplain, a guest Chaplain perhaps coming from one or the other of the States. I am always awed to stand in this Chamber and hear the Chaplain deliver the prayer. As long as this Republic stands, I am confident that the Senate and the House will be opened with prayer.

In West Virginia, anytime there is a public ceremony of any kind, there is sure to be a prayer, just as surely as we have the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Chaplain is always here. He ministers to us, not just by way of a daily prayer here, but if we are ill, in the hospital, or if a family member is in the hospital, if we lose a loved one, the Chaplain is there. He is there to console and to comfort us and to pray with us.

I feel that we should take note of this as we prepare to close out our session. "More things are wrought by prayer than this world dreams of. . . ." Ten-nyson said that. I just remembered it.

So I thank our Chaplain on behalf of all of us—on behalf of the Members, on behalf of the officers of the Senate, on behalf of the employees of the Senate. We do appreciate the pastorship that he performs. He shepherds the flock. We are part of his flock.

I want to pay my respects to him, and let him know that his efforts, his work, his prayers, even when we do not hear them, do not go unnoticed.

Often he sees me and says: I prayed for you yesterday. I was praying for you this morning. We certainly need it. I cherish those prayers.

"Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord."

I thank him.

THANKING THE PRESIDING OFFICER

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, that completes my remarks for today. I thank the Chair for his patience. In this instance, I refer to "the Chair." I thank the Chair for his patience. The present occupant is a fine Senator. He pays attention. He does not sit up at the desk and read newspapers or sign his mail.